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The War Tax Repeal Bill.

Without debate and by unanimous consent the House of Representatives yesterday passed Mr. PAYNE'S bill repealing the war taxes. It is estimated that the repeal will reduce the internal revenue of the Government by about seventy-five million dollars.

The reduction was promised in the Republican platform of 1900, upon which MCKINLEY and ROOSEVELT were elected. "The country is now justified," said that platform, "in expecting, and it will be the policy of the Republican party, to bring about a reduction of the war taxes."

The Democratic platform of the same year denounced the war taxes as "oppressive," and favored their "reduction and speedy repeal."

Theoretically, therefore, there ought to be no opposition anywhere to the measure introduced by Mr. PAYNE from the Ways and Means Committee. There is some force, however, in the opinion attributed to Senator HANNA that it may not be prudent to shave the margin close, in view of the probability of large expenditure in the near future for great national purposes, such, for example, as the Isthmian canal.

Unfortunately there is no known method of setting apart a huge surplus and holding it intact for the nobler uses which national policy may suggest. The surplus is there, and meanwhile it is likely to be frittered away in such channels as are contemplated by the countless proposals of expenditure now pending in Congress.

The Federal building bills introduced at the present session alone would dispose, as we have shown, of between sixty and seventy millions. The celerity with which these bills are now passing the Senate by unanimous consent is a significant and somewhat alarming feature of the general situation. The additional proposals for river, harbor and creek improvements already introduced, for military parks and monumental establishments and miscellaneous expenditure of astonishing variety, could readily relieve the Treasury of thirty or forty millions more.

There is no doubt that an immense surplus, swollen constantly by the excess of revenue flowing into the Treasury, is a constant temptation to extravagant and unnecessary appropriations. This is a billion dollar country, but no political party responsible for the administration of affairs can afford to presume upon that fact.

Army Camp Sites and Posts.

The Army Board which convened last November to consider the question of reorganizing our army post system, abandoning some posts and creating others, has made its report. As published, it provides for a redistribution of the forces among existing posts, for the creation of the four camp sites authorized last year, at which the National Guard of the States may be drilled with Regular troops, and for five new posts, two of them at the chosen camp sites. The names of no posts recommended for abandonment appear in the report, but several existing posts are to be made temporary, while others are to be "permanent, to be used if needed." No provision appears to be made for Fort McPherson, Ga., so possibly that post is recommended for abandonment. The board did not deal with the seacoast forts, except as some of these were to have field batteries of artillery among their garrisons.

The board selects as camp sites places in the vicinity of Chickamauga Park, Ga., at Fort Riley, Kan., in the Conewago Valley, not far from Harrisburg, Pa., and at the Nacimiento Ranch, in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties, California. Chickamauga Park was used as a camp site during the Spanish war, and proved well adapted to the purpose. The outbreak of typhoid fever there at that time was due to no fault of the camp site, but to the sudden herding of more than 50,000 Volunteers, under officers as ignorant as the enlisted men of all that pertains to military life. Under existing conditions, such an epidemic of disease could not recur, whatever the number of men stationed at a camp.

At Fort Riley is the army's Cavalry and Light Artillery School, while not far away, at Fort Leavenworth, are the Infantry and Cavalry School, and the site of the prospective General Service and Staff College of the army. The site in the Conewago Valley and that suggested in California likewise appear to have advantages, being central and easily accessible for the militia in the Northeast and the West, as the other sites are for the State troops of the Southeast and the Central districts.

At Los Angeles, Cal., the board places a camp for a regiment of infantry; and at the Nacimiento Ranch, selected as a camp site, it would place a regimental camp of cavalry. Los Angeles is without any garrison at present; the cavalry post, about midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, would be able to send its garrison in either direction as needed.

Another new post is suggested for Albuquerque, N. M., to contain a regiment of infantry. Posts to contain a regiment of infantry are recommended at Governors Island, New York city, and near Washington; and a post for a battalion of infantry is placed near Crookston, Minn., in the Red River Valley.

All of these posts are suggested by strategic reasons. Those in California place infantry near the second largest city in the State, and cavalry between it and the largest city; the post at Albuquerque is central, and that on Governors Island places forces near the largest city of the country. The post at Washington provides a force near the capital to serve not only as a protection for that city and for Baltimore, but also for military ceremonies, perhaps more imperative in Washington than elsewhere in the country. The post at Crookston concentrates the troops in the middle Northwest, and a post recommended to be placed at Conewago, "when practicable," would bring a regiment of infantry to Philadelphia or Pittsburg when needed.

The plan thus gives four accessible camp grounds, and places a large force of Regular soldiers at the doors of each of the principal cities of the country. Chicago is already guarded by Fort Sheridan. Boston and New Orleans are left out, but probably only for the present.

Many existing posts are enlarged considerably, and the number of regimental posts is increased. The report provides thus for a redistribution of troops rather than for any radical abandonment of existing garrisoned posts.

Friends.

The discussion as to the varying friendships and enmities toward the United States on the part of this or that country, is now in a stage of peculiar interest, and we would put no barrier in its path. Let it go on until it dies the natural death of exhaustion.

There is no need, however, of forgetting to enjoy to the full the fact that to-day every country in the world is friendly to us, and, indeed, to every other country. At least, no nation is to-day plotting the downfall of another, or definitely intending war.

The world is at peace; and so powerful is every important member of its family of nations that each one shrinks as never before from the thought of overt hostility.

People of Moderate Incomes.

According to a writer in *Harper's Weekly*, the lot of "our middle class" has become very hard in a town like New York. This "class" he defines as "composed of persons receiving wages, salaries or incomes of from $500 to $5,000," "lawyers, doctors, preachers, teachers, artists, authors, merchants" and the like. The building improvements which have been made or are proceeding are for the advantage of the rich or the poor, he contends, and these middle people are "slighted."

Unquestionably, the number, proportionately, of people able to provide themselves in the original New York with separate dwellings like those so generally occupied in former years by this "middle class" as to income, has become small and is steadily diminishing. Such an independent residence for a family is becoming more and more a luxury of the rich. From the districts of the town regarded as especially desirable, the fashionable regions or their near neighborhood, people of moderate incomes will eventually be excluded altogether. Even apartments in such a situation may be too costly for them. Outside of this district, however—and, so far as concerns the older town, it is comprised between Fourth or Lexington avenue and Sixth avenue—there still remain many very comfortable houses obtainable at relatively low rents, but they seem to be too far away from the eligible strip to suit most of the "class" described. Even there, too, the process of putting up flats and apartment houses in their places is going on rapidly; but the consequence is that the accommodations provided at moderate rents are greatly multiplied. An area of land formerly occupied by a house for a single family, is made to provide homes for many families.

To the eastward and the westward of the favored strip we have indicated are streets and avenues which in the old days were deemed good enough by the "middle class," and even by the richer, and actually the condition of some of them, so far as concerns cleanliness and convenience of access, is better now than it was then. In the old Ninth ward, for instance, where families of moderate means used to have their houses, there are still left many such residences, and they are only undesirable now when measured by the requirements in the way of household facilities created under the newer standards of house construction. That is, the present successors of the "middle class" of former days in New York would not tolerate discomforts endured uncomplainingly by their predecessors and even by the richest people of the town at that time.

For everybody, the standard of living in the matter of comfort and convenience has been raised greatly during the last generation. On the limited area of Manhattan Island this critical taste in housing cannot be gratified in people who are not luxuriously rich without crowding them together in flats and apartments for many families. These, unquestionably, have their disadvantages, but the newer constructions provide the more recent improvements which are most urgently required. Even in this development, however, the *Harper's Weekly* writer complains that the "middle class" is "slighted." "In fashionable sections," he says, "hundreds of magnificent private dwellings, apartment houses and hotels are provided for the rich, and in the poverty precincts are tenements of one kind and another erected for the exclusive accommodation of the poor at prices to suit their purses," but where, he asks, are the "rows of comfortable dwellings in good neighborhoods that the person of moderate means and some sense of refinement can rent or buy" and where the "apartment houses of modern construction and fair appearance" into which they can afford to get? Undoubtedly they are not in fashionable neighborhoods of Manhattan Island or perhaps on their fringes, yet in the great city of New York there are many to be found in other districts, in Brooklyn, in Harlem, for example, and elsewhere. People of this "middle class" must broaden their notions of what a "good neighborhood" is, as very many thousands of refined families of moderate means have already done. In Harlem, across the East River and over in New Jersey they have little difficulty in finding houses at rents they can afford to pay. If a situation is within a radius of thirty miles of a great city like New York it will have to be regarded as eligible for residence—a "good neighborhood." If such people want comfortable residences by themselves the time has come when they must extend the area in which they set up their homes. If they insist on living on Manhattan Island in a "good neighborhood" they will have to be content, at best, with a small apartment or flat.

So far from the "middle class" being "slighted" by the transformation of the town, they are actually better off than they used to be, though relatively to the luxury and magnificence surrounding the very rich of this time the accommodations may seem humble. Their demands have become more exacting, but these are gratified to a very much greater extent than *Harper's Weekly* assumes, when the whole broad region within which residence is procurable is taken into consideration. Moreover, in a few years the subway and tunnels to be built will extend that accessible residence area widely.

All the people, rich, poor and "middle class," are getting more material comfort in New York now than they obtained a generation ago.

The Insides of Johnson.

A despatch from Barbourville, Kentucky, to the *Louisville Courier-Journal* reveals the existence in that town of a rare genius, a human divining rod. His name is JOHNSON and he comes from Sioux Falls, the capital of PETTIGREW. Although he is a manufacturer of pickles and vinegar, he has a rarely sensitive and sympathetic temperament and his bowels have a strange yearning for the bowels of the earth. Many old alchemists have wasted years and fuel in the attempt to find the philosopher's stone. It is common for the lower class of Chinese to attribute to the foreign devils eyes that can see into the earth and find precious stones and metals. Mr. JOHNSON'S eyes have no special insight, but his accomplished and clairvoyant bowels serve him just as well.

According to the legend he was tangled up in some machinery in an iron foundry when he was eighteen. He was left in a somewhat ravelled and ripped condition. Ever since that accident iron is poison to him. If he comes anywhere near it, terrific pains begin to gnaw his midst. He will walk a mile rather than pass a stove store, and he can feel a paper of tacks drive itself into him all over. Such is the punishment of susceptibility, but the gift has great uses. Put Mr. JOHNSON into any part of the country where iron grows and his intense sufferings will disclose the vein at once. No superimposed or intrusive strata, no thickness of rock, no deadening folds of soil, can interrupt the circuit or delay the discovery. "Through the medium of pains in his bowels and stomach," Mr. JOHNSON shows where to dig. Deep speaks into deep. JOHNSON'S insides and the earth's are put into communication with each other. Presumably, Mr. JOHNSON'S interior is highly magnetic and draws the subterranean iron. The pull is long and strong. It is no wonder that the process is painful to the magnetizer.

A closer study of Mr. JOHNSON'S powers, however, shows that ordinary magnetism will not explain them. He is as attractive to coal, gold, oil, silver, as to cold iron. He takes a walk and he knows by his internal symptoms whether coal, gold, iron, oil, silver or zinc is buried underneath him. He can read the thermometer of his own disturbances; he understands his symptoms. The oil pains comes with a rush. The coal pains burn terrifically. The iron pains are accompanied by a sense of heaviness. The silver pains last sixteen minutes. The gold pains are as if a double eagle were plucking at the liver. Brilliant as Mr. JOHNSON'S inwards are, they are described as absolutely trustworthy. Any stock company formed to make use of their insight can depend upon them. Mr. JOHNSON suffers, but he is strong. Some say it is psychical force; some say it is electricity; some say it is telepathy. No matter what it is, so long as it is. A man who can call metals from the vasty earth and tap its fountains of oil can afford a little stomach ache.

Even in Barbourville there are doubting THOMASES who trust not the tale. But what is there improbable in it? JOHNSON'S faculty may be uncommon in degree but it is not in kind. Col. BRYAN has a pain in his midst whenever he is near Wall Street, and Col. MOSE WETMORE has a nervous chill whenever a Trust is formed and he is not in it.

The Arrest of Automobilists.

If, as is alleged, the ten automobilists who were arrested in this city last Sunday were driving their machines at an unlawful speed, the action of the police in the matter was entirely creditable. While the law prescribes that eight miles an hour is the limit of speed at which motor vehicles may travel in the metropolis that limit must not be exceeded, and the chauffeur who travels at the rate of twelve or fifteen miles per hour must expect to be brought to account.

If the truth were known, the persons who are likely to find the greatest satisfaction in this so-called raid of Sunday are the automobilists themselves; that is to say, the large majority of them who are, and long have been, vigorously and conscientiously opposed to excessive speed on the public streets. From nowhere have there emanated stronger protests against this sort of lawlessness than from the automobile clubs. Realizing from the first that violations of the law regulating their speed might lead to an unjust prejudice against horseless vehicles in general, these organizations have employed their best efforts to impress upon their members the desirability of complying with the legal requirements, and in some instances dismissal from the clubs has been threatened for failure to observe the law.

But, obviously, there are pertinent reasons why it is difficult for the clubs to execute their good intentions in this respect. Who among them is to decide positively whether some of their members do or do not obey the rules? To accuse a member offhand of exceeding the eight-mile limit would surely cause ill feeling among his friends, and reprimands based upon such conclusions could lead to nothing short of enmity and dissension in the clubs involved.

With the police, however, the case is different. It is indisputably their duty to see that the law applying to automobiles, as well as that applying to other vehicles, is enforced. But until last Sunday there was small indication that they appreciated that fact. As the result of seeming indifference on the part of the police, we dare say that a few of the chauffeurs had come to believe that they could drive their machines as fast as they liked, provided they were lucky enough to cause no accident. Such a delusion, if it really existed, should be dispelled immediately.

Undoubtedly, many of the numerous automobile accidents, fatal and otherwise, which have occurred recently in and about New York city as the result of scorching were due primarily to the fact that proper attention was not given to the enforcement of the Automobile law. No one in the Police Department, or elsewhere, need have any fear that justifiable arrests for scorching of this sort in the future will be opposed either by the clubs to which the offenders may belong or by the rank and file of the chauffeurs.

On the thirteenth day of March, 1888, a poet who resided in Broadway, but whose name is unknown to us, produced and published on a shingle this masterpiece of condensed versification and repressed emotion:

"This bliz
Knocks biz."

No such immortal poetry was in the air yesterday. It was the greatest snowstorm of the winter, and it occasioned some embarrassment of traffic and some mitigation of commercial activity; but it was not a bliz and it did not knock biz.

The downfall was considerable, and so was the energy with which the Street Cleaning Department and its snow contractors tackled their job under unexpected and rather difficult conditions.

The Roadmakers' Association, formed in this city last week with Senator HORATIO S. EARLE of Detroit at its head, purposes to encourage the work of highway improvement on a somewhat novel scale. Instead of advocating good roads only in a general way, like other organizations interested in the movement for better highways, the association will favor the construction of a chain of macadamized roads connecting all the capitals of the different States of the Union with the District of Columbia.

By dividing the association into four departments, namely, the Eastern, Southern, Central and Western departments, it is believed that more can be accomplished than by maintaining the organization as a unit. To begin with, only ten members will be eligible from each State. After every State has furnished this number of members, ten more may come in, and so on. An idea of the far-reaching character of the association is afforded by a glance at the names and residences of its charter members. Its First Vice-President, Mr. EDWARD A. BOND, comes from Albany; its Second Vice-President, Mr. R. H. THOMPSON, from Seattle; its Third Vice-President, Judge VAFNER, from Houston; its Secretary, Mr. W. S. CRANDALL, from New York, and its Treasurer, Mr. W. L. DICKINSON, from Springfield, Mass.

We wish the Roadmakers' Association and all other organizations of a similar sort abundant success.

D. A. R. CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

President-General Mrs. Fairbanks Urges the Building of a Continental Hall.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Eleventh Continental Congress of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution began its session here this morning. About 800 delegates were in attendance. After prayer by the Chaplain-General, President-General Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks delivered the opening address. She said the greatest questions before the congress were the reduction of representation and the erection of a vast auditorium. In a year or so, if the society continued to increase in membership in the same ratio that has obtained, there would not be a hall in the country large enough to accommodate the delegates entitled under the present clause of the constitution to seats.

Mrs. Fairbanks congratulated the society upon its highly encouraging condition, financially and otherwise, and urged constant and concerted work upon the project for a continental hall in the national capital. She also made a strong plea for the marking of historic places and the erection of monuments to Revolutionary heroes.

Mrs. John Swift of California responded for the society. The afternoon session was taken up in the presentation of credentials of the delegates from the various State chapters.

Much interest centres in Wednesday's session of the congress, when will be heard the report of the Committee on a National University. In view of Andrew Carnegie's gift of $10,000,000 for the endowment of a national university in Washington, coupled with his disclaimer of any intent to carry out the ideas of George Washington relative to a national institution of learning in the capital, the report of this committee is of more than ordinary importance. Tonight the President-General and the National Board of the society received the delegates and alternates of the congress and the visiting daughters in the lecture room of the National Museum.

The Governor and the Judges.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your article on Saturday entitled "The Executive and Judiciary" is both timely and suggestive. There is a view of the subject, however, upon which you have not yet commented.

A fundamental and vital principle of our Constitutional form of government consists in the separate and distinct powers of the executive, judicial and legislative branches.

Governor Odell seems to overlook or is disposed to override this point in his extreme desire to concentrate power in the executive branch of the State Government. Let him beware of this cardinal feature and leave the courts to themselves.

SCHENECTADY, Feb. 16. JUSTICE.

Tennesseean or Tennesseant

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Both in your editorial and news columns you have on several occasions spelled it "Tennesseeans." Are we in error when we sign ourselves TENNESSEANS?

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.

Yes, we think you are in error.

Strike Up the Band!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is there a place for Melody Choir of East Marion and Tenth ave., Seattle, in your list of Immortals?

FRANK R. CHAMBERS, JR.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 11.

THE MEANING OF THE TREATY.

The Bearing of the Japanese Alliance Upon England's World Affairs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The despatch from your London correspondent in to-day's SUN regarding the Anglo-Japanese alliance, gives what I believe to be the true view of that remarkable diplomatic act. There can be no manner of doubt, that, in entering into the engagement it has with the Japanese Government, the British acted under very severe compulsion. A whole programme of action in the Far East has been completely upset by the stubborn, prolonged resistance of the Boers in South Africa; and advantage has been taken of England's distressed situation by Russia to push her designs in Persia and toward the Indian Ocean. At the same time evidence is accumulating on all sides showing that India has not been at any time since its acquisition by England so disaffected to British rule as now. A correspondent in India whose knowledge of the state of that country is not surpassed by that of any British official in the administration, in a letter written just about a month ago briefly describes the situation in this sentence: "Where we are drifting to God only knows. So far as my limited vision reaches, I find nothing but darkness all round."

It is significant that with things in India in the condition implied in the above, the minds of the people of India, excepting the Moslem element, for the most part should be turning to Japan. "To the Asiatic, Japan is the only torch of hope in the gloom that has fallen upon Asia," was the concluding sentence of an article in the *Tribune* of Lahore recently on the condition of India. Other Indian papers such as the *Hindu*, *Madras Standard*, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and others, publish eulogistic articles on Japan, its government, army and navy. The *Bengalee*, an influential Calcutta paper, has its correspondent in Japan, who, in a letter in a recent number, gives an account of his experiences during which he found the sentiment of "Asia for Asiatics and Europe for Europeans. There should be no meddling," to be the dominant one among the Japanese. And an Indian paper only a short time since speaking of the return of the Indian troops from China said that nothing had surprised both the native officers and men so much as seeing Asiatic troops commanded and led entirely by Asiatic officers.

This looking to Japan is producing results in different ways. One is the number of Indians who are going to Japan to study at the Imperial University of Tokio and other educational establishments instead of to England. What is also remarkable is the substantial sympathy shown by Japanese during the famine last year in India, and the sending of some Japanese journalists to report on it, who, however, were turned back by the British authorities at Singapore while on their way. These circumstances of themselves alone would almost account for the desire of the British Government to ally itself with Japan in order to prevent its holding out hopes to the Indian people.

Russian influence and action in Persia which are becoming a positive menace to British prestige in Afghanistan and India, as well as in Arabia and Persia, will also have to be counteracted in some way before long. During December and part of last month the Russian armored cruiser Variag, only recently turned out of the Cramps' establishment, has been astonishing the natives of the Arabian and Persian Gulf ports by her six electric lights and her size; and at Bushire, the most important of the Persian ports, her Captain gave a great entertainment on the name day of the Czar to which the only foreign Consuls invited were the French and Dutch. During the stay of the Variag at Muscat, the Captain and officers were presented to the Sultan of Oman by the French Consul. From the Persian Gulf she went to Karachi, the principal port of export of Indian wheat, and after a stay there of several days, left for Ceylon and the China seas. The object of this cruise was of course to display the Russian flag and impress the people in those regions, which are as likely as not to be the centre of the storm in Asia whenever it breaks out, before spreading to other parts.

There is internal evidence in the Anglo-Japanese treaty that there is another instrument behind it, more clearly defining the circumstances that may involve the necessity for the neutral party to come to the help of the other, although the published document seems to limit the sphere of its action to China, including Manchuria, and Korea. A conflict between England and Russia over Persia might easily lead to French intervention were Russia to get the worst of it, in which case an occasion could be created whereby, under the second and third sections of the treaty, Japan would be bound to interfere and, while England was pushing Russia in Persia, make a diversion against Russia in Manchuria while the British-China squadron was dealing with the French settlements in Cambodia, Cochin-China and Tonquin.

There is another point where complications seem probable at no distant date. It is in the eastern Mediterranean. One of the strongest symptoms of this is to be seen in the extraordinary anxiety of the Sultan to have the railway from Damascus to Mecca completed so as to secure communication by land when the sea route might be cut off. The uncertainty of the Suez Canal route for the British communications with the East, is undoubtedly at the bottom of the determination of the British Government to completely crush the Dutch of South Africa, and so obviate all future possibility of the closing of the alternative route by the Cape of Good Hope. Madagascar too is marked out, whenever the opportunity presents itself, to haul down the French flag over the formidable naval station of Diego Suarez which lies in the fair way between Cape Town and India, unless the French succeed in making the inhabitants of the island prefer theirs to British occupation.

The stimulus to aggression on what are believed to be the weaker nations will grow in Great Britain with the diminution of the profits of foreign trade and the possession of a formidable fleet; and France is believed in England to be one of those that may be attacked with impunity in her more distant possessions. The first requisite is to bring about her dislocation from Russia, and this is what the Japanese alliance aims at, in addition to neutralizing any possible tendency in Japan to embarrass England by displaying too lively a sympathy with the people of India.

As to the Indian Moslems, the new Amir of Afghanistan seems intent on winning their good will; and by the receptions he has extended to the deputations that have gone to Kabul since his accession to his father's throne, he seems to desire to establish himself as a centre of Pan-Islamic influence. Arabic and Persian are to be taught in all the schools of the country, so as to encourage and widen the growing intercourse between Afghanistan and Persia and Arabia. Intimate and friendly relations also exist between Kabul and Constantinople, chiefly prompted by the Sultan, who has worked anxiously of late years to bring about a general Islamic revival.

These are among the dangers menacing the stability of England's position in the East; and the alliance with Japan was the natural consequence of the perception of them. The danger of the alliance is that at some point the necessities of Great Britain and the ambitions of Japan may clash. G. F.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.

The Birthplaces of Two Kentuckians.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

It is curious, by the way, to recall that both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were born in this State, not more than 100 miles apart and with but about a year's difference in time.

MEDALS OF HONOR.

The Present Tardy Method of Recognizing Gallant and Unusual Services.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The report of the Army Board presided over by Gen. MacArthur, recommending brevets, medals of honor and certificates of merit to officers and men of the Spanish and Philippines wars and of the China relief expedition, has been made, and as a whole approved by the President. Brevets under our system are valueless, and, as a rule, are conferred years after the service for which they are given was performed, so that that portion of the report dealing with brevets is of little importance.

With regard to the bestowal of medals of honor and of certificates of merit, the matter is different. These have occasionally been obtained by improper persons, but, as a whole, the list of medal-of-honor men and of enlisted men who have received certificates of merit is a real roll of honor.

The MacArthur board reports that thirty-three officers and men deserve the medal of honor, and fifty-six men deserve certificates of merit. Of the medals, only one is recommended to be given for gallantry during the Spanish war; and that goes to Sergt.-Major Edward Lee Baker, Jr., Tenth Cavalry "for distinguished gallantry in action at Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898, in leaving cover and rescuing under fire a wounded comrade from drowning in a stream in front of Santiago." Sergt.-Major Baker is a negro.

Thirty officers and men are recommended as deserving medals for gallantry in the Philippines, and two for gallantry in China. The board decides that "no medals will be issued in the cases of those recommended for medals who have since died." There may be a good reason for this decision, but it is not apparent. The decision is contrary to the custom obtaining in Great Britain, Germany and France, where similar medals of honor are bestowed on the relatives of the dead; if it is to be the rule, it might be as well to decide not to recommend any dead man for the medal.

Four enlisted men of the Second Infantry are recommended as deserving certificates of merit for services in Cuba on July 2, 1898; forty-five for services in the Philippines, and seven for services in China. One of the latter was killed at the time, but whether the certificate will be dispensed with does not appear from the report as published.

The case of this man causes wonder as to the plan pursued by the board in weighing the claims of soldiers for the medal of honor and the certificate of merit. Private John H. Porter, Company D, Ninth Infantry, receives the certificate "for distinguished service at Tientsin, China, July 13, 1900, in sacrificing his life in endeavoring to save his wounded color sergeant." Why is not Porter deserving of the medal, rather than of the certificate, especially since he can receive neither?

While no one can desire to have the most honorable rewards open to our soldiers bestowed carelessly, it must strike many persons that the honor of receiving or of being recommended for a medal or a certificate is diminished very greatly by the long time that elapses between the act of gallantry and the recommendation or bestowal of the prize. Sergt.-Major Baker displayed his gallantry nearly four years ago, and has not got his medal yet. The most recent act of bravery rewarded by the board occurred on July 2, 1901, and one other act was performed on Jan. 8, 1901. With these exceptions all the acts rewarded were done more than fifteen months ago. Brevet promotions, the easiest and least valuable army rewards, require the consent of the Senate before they can be made; but the more important medals of honor and certificates of merit are bestowed by the President. It would seem that justice to brave soldiers could be done within four years, or even fifteen months. A recommendation by the immediate commander of the soldier forwarded through the channel and with the approval of the various higher commanding officers should receive attention at once, as a matter of course, and its acceptance by the Secretary of War should be followed by the prompt despatch of the medal or certificate. B.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.

SAID THE LORD HELPED HIM OUT.

Minister Finds a Purchaser for a Fraudulent Scheme He Had Operated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Assistant Attorney-General for the Post Office Department has a legal problem on hand which is a little more difficult of solution than those which usually fall to his lot. Complaints were received at the Department some time ago of a fraudulent scheme in operation in a Southern State which was doing a big business. By the time the inspectors had located the headquarters of the scheme, had sent in their reports and action was about to be taken against the promotor, it was discovered that he had disposed of his rights and the "good will" of the business and that the headquarters of the purchaser were in another part of the State. The inspectors started out again and found that the "business" had been bought by a minister of the gospel, who had operated it for several weeks and then sold it.

The third operator of the scheme was run to earth and the business broken up, and as the scheme was not only in violation of the Post Office regulations, but also against the Federal statutes, the Department officials began an investigation to determine the relative guilt of the three men and to detrmine upon the Department's course of action. The first operator of the scheme, who was an old hand in the business, hired a lawyer who notified the Department that a brief would be submitted in his behalf.

The minister who had bought the "good will" wrote a long letter to the Department, and it is his letter that forms the most interesting feature of the case. He says he did not know when he purchased the scheme that it was fraudulent, and that when he became convinced of this fact, he called on the Lord for aid and retired "into the desert" to wrestle with his conscience. He was a poor man, the letter said, and could not afford to lose the snug sum he had paid for the aforesaid "good will" of the fraudulent scheme, and as his conscience would not permit him to continue the swindle, he was in a quandary until, as he says in his letter, "the Lord came to my aid and told me to pray for a purchaser."

He says he followed the advice and retired to rest with a peaceful mind and untroubled conscience and had hardly finished his breakfast the next morning when the desired purchaser arrived and took the scheme off his hands. The minister says that he gave the Lord thanks and is a far better Christian than he was before.

The third purchaser, the man who was found with the "goods on him," puts up the plea that, having purchased the scheme from a servant of the Lord, he thought it was all right and had continued to operate it until closed up by the Post Office inspectors.

The Attorney-General for the Post Office Department is divided between a desire to see the laws carried out and wonder and admiration for the minister's pliable conscience.

The Humorous Compositors of "The Saturday Review."

From that Charming Periodical's Issue of Feb. 8.

By a mistake of the printers a sentence in our leading article of last week on "The Indiscretions of Philo-Americanism" which should have run, "The language used of Spain at the time was as indecent as unwarranted" was printed "The language used by Spain," &c. The substitution of "by" for "of" committed us to a statement we should probably be the last journal in the whole world to make. Both in manner and tone the Spanish conduct of the negotiations preceding the war was all that courtesy and dignity require and made a marked contrast to the manners of their opponents. It was not a Spanish Admiral who said that he would soon make the enemy's language the most popular in Hell. We sincerely trust that any Spaniard who may have read the leading article will also see this correction; for we should be sorry in the extreme to be thought capable of making the false statement referred to.

SADLER'S PORTRAIT OF BUNYAN.

National Portrait Gallery Buys It From the Countess of Cavan.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The trustees of the National Portrait Gallery in London have purchased from Mary, Countess of Cavan, a famous portrait of John Bunyan, by Thomas Sadler. Only two admittedly genuine likenesses of the illustrious tinker are known to exist, the other being a pencil drawing by Robert White, executed in 1682, and now in the Print Room at the British Museum. The latter figures were often in editions of Bunyan's works, though engravings of the Sadler portrait are not infrequent.

The authenticity of the new acquisition is attested by papers in the possession of Lady Cavan, who received the picture from her father, the Rev. John Olive, for many years rector of Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, who in his turn obtained it from a source dating back to the days of Bunyan himself. It is a half length in oil color, painted in 1685 when Bunyan must have been 57 years of age. It gives one the idea of a younger man; also there seems at first sight little to suggest the visionary. However, Taine says of his work: "Under his simplicity you will find power, and in his puerility the vision."

That is no ill description of the portrait. A sturdy man, a broad and honest face, fresh coloring, irregular features, eyes an odd mixture of simplicity and perspicacity, a strong growth of hair, which curves over the face, a stubborn mustache, a tuft on the under lip—most of that may be seen from the engravings, but the original is much more convincing. The more one looks the more one feels a sense of power; the more one realizes this must be a great reactionary, a splendid, militant nonconformist. He is clad in sober brown and wears as many buttons as Joseph's coat had colors; one hand clasps his book; and a slip of lace collar somehow parallels that worldly tuft of hair on the under lip. Indeed, a remarkable man and a remarkable portrait; and it is by no means solely to the subject that the picture owes its interest; it has great merit as a work of art.

Seven years before Thomas Sadler painted John Bunyan, the first edition of "The Pilgrim's Progress" was issued by "*Nath. Ponder* at the *Peacock* in the *Poultrey* near *Cornhil*." The author lived to revise eight editions. All are rather scarce nowadays. Than the first of these no "first" could be much scarcer, for in a facsimile published some twenty years ago, it was stated that but one copy was known to be in existence. This was then in the library of Mr. R. S. Holford. Last year, however, the following item figured in the Nash sale—the first known occurrence at auction:

"*Bunyan. 'The Pilgrim's Progress.' Part I., first edition. Original calf. Slightly defective.*" It had a frontispiece, possibly unique, of Bunyan dreaming, and it was originally published at one shilling and sixpence. The amount it sold for was £1,475. This is but little less than the record price for a fine example of the First Folio Shakepeare, £1,720, which was realized at another sale in 1901.

UNFIT FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Gov. Taft Says the Filipinos Must Be Fitted by Education.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Gov. Taft's exposition before the Senate Philippine Committee of the conditions of things in the Philippine Islands and the progress of their pacification was continued this morning. It began three weeks ago.

The plan of the Philippine Commission, he said, was to convince the Filipinos that it was the desire of the commission to educate them in self-government and give them that measure of it for which they were fitted. This did not apply to the Moros, who did not desire and did not understand popular government. One of the chief aims of the Philippine Commission was to give to the Filipinos a common language—and that language English. By that means they would breathe in the spirit of Anglo-Saxon liberty.

In reply to questions by Mr. Rawlins Gov. Taft said: "I think it would be well to reiterate, in a law, the rights set forth in the President's instructions to the commission, which includes everything secured by the Bill of Rights, except the right to bear arms and the right to trial by jury. I do not think that they are fit for trial by jury; and I do not think that they themselves would ask for the right to bear arms among a people in which ladronism is chronic. If it were wise to declare any policy I think it should be a declaration of the intention of the United States to hold those islands indefinitely until the people show themselves fit for self-government, when their relations to the United States (either of independence or of quasi independence) can be decided."

"Do you mean so say," Mr. Allison queried, "that the Filipinos are not prepared to maintain a nationality of their own; or do you also mean that they are not able to protect domestic order throughout the islands?"

Gov. Taft—I mean both. They are neither able to maintain a stable national government, nor are they able to maintain a government, in a domestic point of view, stable enough to protect life and property. We have a hope that, with the imitative character of the people, with their real desire for improvement (shown especially by their anxiety to learn English and to be educated), we can carry out our experiment and justify our course, even though history has heretofore offered no example of the establishment of popular government with the Malay race.

Mr. Culberson—Suppose you reverse the case and imagine the Filipinos powerful enough to undertake to force upon the people of the United States their language, their civilization, and their laws, on the ground that they were better suited to us than our own, what would you say about that?

Gov. Taft—Do you think that that helps the question? I should certainly resist.

Mr. Culberson—So I supposed.

The committee adjourned till to-morrow morning.

PACIFICATION OF PHILIPPINES.

Col. Allen Believes That Within One Year Only 15,000 Troops Will Be Needed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The War Department made public to-day a report by Col. Henry T. Allen, Chief of the Philippine constabulary, in which he declares that in his opinion within one year from Dec. 15, the date of the report, only 15,000 troops will be needed in the Philippines. This, in addition to the 2,500 constabulary and native troops. He adds:

"I make this statement after due consideration of the conditions existing here and with fairly good knowledge of the character of the inhabitants of these islands. I also recognize the race difficulties that must always arise between Caucasian and Malay and the want of confidence that is so generally manifested at this time by many Americans toward Filipinos. The general condition of the islands as regards pacification has never been so favorable as now, when the crumbling from the top is duly manifest. In my opinion the campaign is passing to Batangas and Laguna will be the coup de grace of the insurrection and will prevent our trouble in the Philippines from becoming chronic."

Col. Allen believes that the present force of 2,500 men in the constabulary should be doubled, and he submits an estimate for the maintenance of such a force, including subsistence, transportation, quarters and equipage, of $1,250,000 a year.